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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 002274

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/18/2018

TAGS: PREL PGOV MOPS MARR GG RU JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN ANNOUNCES GEORGIA ASSISTANCE, IS CONSIDERING CONFLICT'S AFFECT ON RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer per 1.4 (b/d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Japan will provide USD one million in humanitarian assistance to Georgia, the composition of which will be determined by the content of an upcoming UN appeal. Japan continues to call on Russia to abide by its cease-fire with Georgia and to withdraw from Georgian territory "outside of South Ossetia." In the meantime, our MOFA contacts tell us, the impact on Japan's relationship with Russia depends on Moscow's implementation of its pledges and the UNSC and NATO's response. Although Japan recognizes the number of venues to signal that Russia's actions are unacceptable, they are concerned about delinking Russia from institutions that support international norms. End Summary.

¶2. (C) Japan will provide USD one million in emergency humanitarian relief to Georgia, Foreign Minister Kourumura announced August 15. Based on the content of the upcoming UN appeal, MOFA will determine the composition of the assistance, MOFA Caucasus Division Director Shigeyuki Shimamura told Embassy Tokyo August 18. Because Japan lacks the logistical infrastructure to deliver the aid on its own, it will rely on the UN to procure and deliver the assistance, Shimamura explained.

¶3. (C) The Japanese Government continues to call on Russia to implement the cease-fire agreement with Georgia and to withdraw from Georgian territory "outside of South Ossetia," Shimamura said. In the meantime, Japan continues to consider how its relationship with Russia will be affected by the conflict with Georgia. "Depending on how Russia proceeds, and how discussions in the UNSC and NATO develop, Japan will decide how to move forward with both Georgia and Russia," Shimamura said. The Japanese Government "strongly welcomed" the G7 phone call initiated by Secretary Rice, and looks forward to further coordinating with the United States, he said.

¶4. (C) In a separate conversation with Econ M/C August 15, MOFA DG for International Economics Otabe said that Dan Price has called Japanese Sherpa Kohno to discuss the situation of Russia in the G8. Otabe also noted that there are a number of places where it might be possible to send a signal that Russia's military actions in Georgia are not acceptable: the G8, discussions about Russia's accession to the IEA and OECD, and work on Russian membership in the WTO. DG Otabe agreed that Russia's behavior is completely unacceptable, but -- saying that he was speaking personally -- wondered whether it would be worse if Russia were not linked in to these bodies that should be giving it a sense of responsibility for the

global system.  
SCHIEFFER